

January 2014

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Recommended Citation

Perry, Suzie (2014) "The Scope on the Pope: Three Jesuit Views," *Jesuit Higher Education: A Journal*: Vol. 3 : No. 1 , Article 6.
Available at: <http://epublications.regis.edu/jhe/vol3/iss1/6>

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The Scope on the Pope: Three Jesuit Views

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Much has been written about Pope Francis and his first year of his papacy. The following three distinctly Jesuit resources provide the inside story of the man who has inspired a world weary of conflict and desperate for a new kind of leadership.

Pope Alarm

A little over a year ago, *Pope Alarm.com*¹ was born out of the Focus organization, which works with Catholic students on over 87 University campuses across the country. Initially intended as an alert to the public when the white smoke went up at the Vatican to indicate a new Pope had been chosen, the website proved to be so popular that it has continued to appear, self-billed as “The lowdown on what the Pope is up to.” The latest issue featured articles entitled “Pope Francis’ Two Most Important Characteristics and Why They Challenge All of Us” and “John Paul II and John XXIII to be Canonized on April 27.”

Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads

This book² by Chris Lowney, a former Jesuit seminarian and author of the best-selling books, *Heroic Leadership* and *Heroic Living*, takes the view that our rapidly changing world needs a different kind of leader – a leader that values human characteristics and needs. Loyola Press, publisher of Lowney’s book, notes, “Pope Francis has been honing these traits for decades. Drawing on interviews with people who knew him as Father Jorge Bergoglio, S.J., Lowney challenges assumptions about what it takes to be a great leader.”

The Church of Mercy

Released on Easter, 2014, the author, Pope Francis himself, shares his message of mercy.³

James Martin, S.J., most recently author of *Jesus: a Pilgrimage*, describes *The Church of Mercy* as, “A magnificent book, bursting with profound spiritual insights, from a man who has quickly become one of the greatest spiritual teachers of our time.”³

Notes

¹ *Pope Alarm.com: The Lowdown on What the Pope Is Up To*, accessed April 21, 2014, <http://www.popealarm.com/>.

² Chris Lowney, *Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads* (Chicago: Loyola Press, 2013).

³ Francis I, *The Church of Mercy* (Chicago: Loyola Press, 2014.)